

# FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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**Town/City:** Medford

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Medford Square South

## Photograph (view from W)



**Address:** 109 Forest Street

**Historic Name:** Edward H. and Gertrude F. Mahoney House

**Uses:** Present: single-family residential

Original: single-family residential

**Date of Construction:** 1900-1910

**Source:** maps

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival/ center entrance colonial

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: brick/ wood

Roof: slate

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** detached garage

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): none

**Condition:** Excellent

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 13,600 square feet

**Setting:** Well-preserved residential neighborhood developed between the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries with a mixture of large-scale housing for the elite and later multi-family buildings.

## Locus Map (north is up)



**Recorded by:** John D. Clemson

**Organization:** Medford Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): April 2018

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Mahoney House, constructed between 1900 and 1910, is an exceptionally well-preserved representative example of the center-entrance Colonial Revival type. This two-story building is three bays wide and two piles deep, with dimensions of 38 feet wide by 26 feet deep. The gable-block main body is flanked by side porches; the left side (north) is enclosed for what appears to be year-round use and expands nearly the full depth of the house, and the right side is open and half-depth. The enclosed side porch, which is fenestrated with a continual band of paired windows, likely served the function of what was referred to during the period as a "sun parlor." Such spaces were a common feature of comfortably scaled houses of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century prior to the introduction of air conditioning and were occasionally labelled "radio room" in period plans.<sup>1</sup> Each side porch has a balustrade surrounding an open deck. A third smaller open entrance porch is centered on the façade. The gabled third story is expanded by three well-proportioned gabled dormers arranged in a regular, symmetrical pattern on the forward slope of the roof. The rest of the fenestration pattern is entirely symmetrical: in the first story of the façade tri-part windows flank the entrance, while above and on the sides and rear standard-sized windows are arranged in a regular pattern. A rear entrance, located in the south-most bay of the rear elevation, is also sheltered by a small open gabled porch.

Finishes are of exceptional quality and include an original slate roof. The house is constructed entirely of brick laid up in common bond, including the foundation; the foundation is separated from the upper body by a water table of soldiers. The windows all have cast-stone sills and the broad tri-part window openings in the first story have lintels composed of splayed soldiers picked out with cast-stone keystones and springers. Much of the building's elaboration is focused on the porches: the gabled center entrance porch with a tympanum that is open to an elliptical arch is supported by paired Tuscan columns and single square pilasters; the side porches by paired square columns. The window openings retain original eight-over-eight, six-over-six and four-over-four wood sash, and the main entrance is lit by  $\frac{3}{4}$  sidelights. One notable exception to the fenestration pattern is a pair of quarter-round windows in the north-facing gable where the gable is interrupted by an exterior chimney stack (the other side has a single standard window). The plan of the house is suggested by the entrance location, fenestration pattern, and placement of the chimney. It likely includes a formal central hall with a stair flanked by a full-depth living room on the left and a dining room forward and kitchen rear on the right. Houses of this scale also often had a fourth small room such as a den, breakfast nook or powder room behind the main stair. The house is sited at a moderate setback on a generous corner lot planted with lawn, mature foundation plantings and shade trees. A detached, two-bay, hip-roofed garage to the right and rear of the house is reached by a narrow asphalt drive that runs straight across the rear garden from Webster Street. The garage is constructed of common-bond brick and a slate roof like the main house, suggesting it is part of the original build.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Mahoney House is initially documented by its depiction on the 1910 Sanborn map. The earlier commercial map published in 1900 indicates it was part of a residential subdivision undertaken on land owned by the prominent industrialist Samuel Crocker Lawrence (1832-1911).<sup>2</sup> Lawrence owned considerable property in Medford north of High Street between Winthrop and Forest streets which was intensively developed after his death as a large residential subdivision, with single-family houses similar to the subject building in terms of scale and style, known as Lawrence Estates. Directory and Federal Census listings indicate that by the mid-1920s the house was owned and occupied by Edward Harold Mahoney, his wife, Gertrude F. (Fahey) and son Edward H. Jr. Edward H. Mahoney (1882-1931), a leather merchant employed by N.C. Lyon & Co. of 129 Lincoln Street, Boston, was a native of Medford born to Irish immigrants John (died 1888), a laborer, and Catherine A. Mahoney

<sup>1</sup> See: Harris, McHenry & Baker Co., *101 Classic Homes of the Twenties* (Dover, 1990) and J.D. Loizeaux, *Classic Houses of the Twenties* (Dover, 1992).

<sup>2</sup> See: William Richard Cutter, *Historic Homes and Places and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs Relating to the Families of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Vol. IV* (Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1908) pp. 1126-1127, and Brooks/Usher, p. 390.

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(born ca. 1852). After his death his widow remarried to Dr. Joseph Ahern and moved to Newton.<sup>3</sup> Between 1930 and 1940 the house was owned and occupied by Charles Edwin Giles (born ca. 1871), a manager of an express company, and wives Julia (born ca. 1873) and later Gertrude O. (born ca. 1886). According to newspaper accounts Charles E. and Julia Giles divorced in 1931. During the 1930s Giles employed a live-in housekeeper, Shure Crawford (born ca. 1863). In 1930 the house was valued at \$22,000 and in 1940 at \$15,000.<sup>4</sup> Since 1944 the house has been owned by two generations of the Dello Iacono and Addonizio families, who are intermarried.<sup>5</sup>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com: see footnotes

Maps and atlases:

1855 H.F. Walling. "Map of Medford...."

1875 F. W. Beers, *County Atlas of Middlesex, Massachusetts*.

1880 O. H. Bailey [Bird's Eye View of] Medford.

1889 Geo. H. Walker & Co., *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*.

1898 Geo. W. Stadly & Co., *Atlas of the City of Medford....*

1900 Geo. W. Stadly & Co., *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Volume 1*.

1892, 1897, 1903, 1910, 1936, 1936-1950 Sanborn Insurance Atlases.

Charles Brooks and James M. Usher, *History of the Town of Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, From its First Settlement in 1630 to 1855; Revised, Enlarged and Brought Down to 1885* (Rand, Avery & Co., 1886)

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, in notes as MCSRD book:page.



View from SW showing right (south-facing) elevation and open side porch.

<sup>3</sup> Ancestry: Medford Vital Records; 1920, 1924, 1926, 1928 Medford City Directories; 1910, 1920 Federal Census; Passport Application dated 1920 (according to this record the Mahoneys planned a trip to Britain on the *Mauritania*); WWI Draft Registration Card; Social Security Death Index.

<sup>4</sup> 1930, 1940 Federal Census; 1930, 1938 Medford City Directories; *Boston Daily Globe*, May 27, 1931, p. 11, "Charges Mrs. Giles Called Guest 'Bum,' Medford Man Opposing Her Suit for Divorce."

<sup>5</sup> MCSRD 6559:181, Nov. 17, 1941; 6808:74, Oct. 18, 1944; 7450:392, Jun. 30, 1949; 14070:513, Sep. 30, 1980; 29460:401, Nov. 20, 1998; 65656:344, Jul. 1, 2015.

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View from W showing entry porch and entry detail.



View from N showing garage.